

Remarks

This reply is responsive to the Office communication mailed August 25, 2005. Unless otherwise indicated, page and paragraph references herein are to that communication.

Claim 30 has been amended to recite the further step of storing in the digital secure repository "a list of authorized rendering devices on which said user is allowed to render said digital content". This corresponds to the list 236 of registered rendering devices shown in Fig. 2 and described at page 19, lines 2-5.

Claim 30 has been further amended to recite that the rendering of the digital content is controlled in accordance with the access rights to the digital content "and the list of authorized rendering devices" stored in the digital secure repository "so as to allow said user to render said digital content on an authorized rendering device in accordance with the access rights stored in said digital secure repository without requiring additional authorization from an external authority". Support for the former recitation is found from page 24, line 11, to page 25, line 4, describing steps 814-830¹ in Fig. 8A. Support for the latter limitation is found in Figs. 8A-8B and the accompanying description, as well as, for example, the statement at page 21, lines 8-10 about the "independence" of the rights wallet authority (108, 128, 204) from the content distribution portal (106, 126, 202).²

Claims 1, 11, 18, 26 and 28 have been amended in a manner similar to that of claim 30. Dependent claims have been amended to agree with the changes made in the base claims on which they depend.

As amended, claims 1, 11, 18, 26 and 28 and the claims dependent thereon are believed to distinguish patentably over the art cited by the Examiner. In particular, they are believed to distinguish patentably over Heaven et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0188854

¹ While some of these steps check lists stored in other devices, the lists check reflect the contents of the list stored in the digital secure repository.

² While some interaction with the content distribution portal occurs in the procedure shown in Fig. 11, this is an exceptional procedure for rendering content on a "public rendering" device.

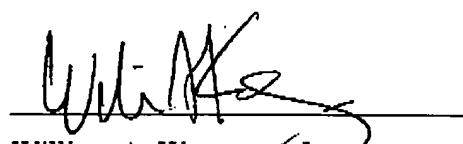
("Heaven") Okamoto et al. U.S. Patent 6,732,106 ("Okamoto"), Fung et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0052077 ("Fung"), and Olson et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0003878 ("Olson"), applied by the Examiner against these claims.

In applicants' claimed invention, a user can render digital content on an authorized rendering device selected from a list of such devices in accordance with the access rights stored in his digital secure repository, without requiring additional authorization from an external authority such as an original author (102, 122) or a content distribution portal 106, 126, 202. This contrasts with all of the references cited by the Examiner. In Heaven, for example, the user is tethered to a single "default auditing device" which can only be changed with some effort (¶ 36). And as explained at length in the previous amendment, none of the remaining three references applied against these claims teaches a digital secure repository that is associated with a user independently of a particular user device and stores access rights of the user to digital content as claimed by applicants.

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested. It is hoped that upon such consideration, the Examiner will hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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